

REMARKS

In the Office Action, claims 14, 16, 21-23 are withdrawn from consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b) as being drawn to a nonelected invention. Claims 12, 13, 17-20, and 25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Whipple, et al.

In this response, no amendments have been made. A listing of claims nevertheless has been provided for the Examiner's convenience.

Reconsideration of the application in view of the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Withdrawal of claims 14, 16, and 21-23:

In the attached Listing of Claims, Applicants have indicated that claims 14, 16, 21-23 have been withdrawn. Applicants note however that all of those claims depend from independent claim 12. Therefore, should independent claim 12 be allowable over Whipple et al., as argued below, claim 12 would serve as an allowable linking claim and Applicants reserve the right to have claims 14, 16, 21-23 reinstated at that time.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) in view of Whipple et al.:

Claims 12, 13, 17-20, and 25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Whipple et al.

Whipple et al. describes a quick connect terminal for an electric power switch. According to the Examiner, Whipple discloses housing 17, first connection device 5511, second connection device 5522, contact carrier 53. The Examiner also asserts that Whipple discloses a screw clamp terminal at col. 3, lines 11-15 and connection terminals associated with a second pole.

Independent claim 12 recites an electrical switching device having at least one pole, that includes at least the following elements:

- a housing including an insulating material; and
- an incoming terminal contact and an outgoing terminal contact associated with a first pole, each of the terminal contacts including a respective first connection device disposed inside the housing and configured for connection of a respective first external electrical

conductor, at least one of the terminal contacts including a respective second connection device disposed inside the housing and configured for pluggable connection of a respective second electrical conductor.

Applicants respectfully submit that the Examiner has not asserted that Whipple et al. discloses at least one terminal contact that includes both a first connection device configured for connection to a first external conductor and a second connection device configured for pluggable connection of a respective second electrical conductor as recited in independent claim 12, and thus has failed to make a prima facie anticipation rejection. Applicants furthermore submit that Whipple et al. does not disclose a terminal contact having such first and second connection devices. In Whipple et al. there is no suggestion that the spade termination 5521 is configured for connection to a first external electric conductor while 5522 is configured for connection to a respective second external conductor, or that any of the spade terminations 5511, 5512, 5521, and 5522 should be connected to more than one external electric conductor. Indeed, a person of ordinary skill in the art would understand that the Whipple et al. quick connect terminal 15 is designed to connect to a single external conductor. Accordingly, Whipple et al. cannot infringe claim 12 or any of its dependent claims.

Furthermore, with respect to claim 17, Applicants respectfully submit that Whipple et al. fails to teach the additional features that the "first connection device includes at least one of a screw clamp terminal, a spring clamp terminal, and an insulation-piercing terminal." Instead, Whipple et al. merely describes spade terminations 5511, 5512, 5521, and 5522 as connection devices of a terminal contact. There is no suggestion for any of the types of terminals recited in claim 17. Contrary to the Examiner's assertion Whipple et al. does not describe a screw clamp terminal. Furthermore, the statement at column 3, lines 11-15 to a "conventional terminal or a quick connect terminal" does not refer to a terminal contact having these two types of terminals, but rather to two separate terminal contacts. Nor is it reasonable to assume that "conventional terminal" refers to a screw clamp terminal given the express teaching away a screw clamp terminals at column 1, lines 32-33 "preferably without the need for a tool such as a screwdriver." Accordingly, claim 17 is not anticipated by Whipple et al. for at least that additional reason.

For at least the above reasons, therefore, withdrawal of the rejections to claims 12, 13, 17-20, and 25 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

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